

# Atlantic Richfield Company

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June 2, 2009

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: May 2009 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:  
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket  
No. 9-2007-0005 and EPA Docket No. 09-2009-0010**

Dear Ms. Hollan Burke:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) RI/FS and removal action activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during May 2009.

### **May 2009 Activities**

#### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities including operation of the propane cannons for the Arimetco ponds with the exception of the VLT Pond. Bird mitigation at the VLT pond continued in accordance with EPA's March 2009 procedures. The propane cannon timer at the Slot Pond was repaired.
- Pumpback well system (PWS) was not operated after the shutdown was implemented in late March, although operation of the evaporation pan continued. PWS evaporation pond levels: North Cell < 1.00 feet (minimum staff gauge level recorded April 16, 2009); Middle Cell = 0.42 feet; South Cell = 0.66 feet. PWS evaporation pond cells are anticipated to dry through the remainder of 2009.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS): 1) Total estimated gallons transferred from VLTSP Pond to Evaporation Pond = 294,000 gallons; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 117,000 gallons; Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; 2) Pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = <1.0 foot; Evaporation Pond = 5.5 feet; VLT Pond = 6 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 15.25 feet.
- Fence repairs were completed along the north perimeter fence, and were initiated along Burch Road.

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## **May 2009 Activities - Continued**

### Other Site Activities

- Desert Engineering and Black Eagle consulting completed on site geotechnical field investigations May 4.
- Roy Shipes (Arimetco) showed the SX/EW plant to Utah Copper Company personnel on May 11. Ilka Dinkelman (CH2M Hill) accompanied this group while they were on Site.
- Equipment was delivered to the Site the week of May 11 for work on the bioremediation pad. Tom Dunkleman was on Site the week of May 18 with EQM to repair the bioremediation pad.
- Roger Fawcett (Fawcett Electric) was on Site May 27 to work on the slot transfer pump.
- Art Gravenstein and Joe Sawyer (NDEP) were on Site May 28.
- Attended the Yerington Stakeholder's Meeting on May 28.

### Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained on May 27 and 28.
- A pit lake elevation of 4218.44 feet amsl was recorded on May 28 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.22 feet over a 4-week period (since April 28) and an increase of 2.96 feet in the past year (since May 28, 2008).
- Continued compilation of 1Q 2009 groundwater monitoring data for inclusion in the quarterly report.
- 2Q 2009 groundwater monitoring started May 31, and is expected to be completed by June 11. Notified land/domestic well owners that sampling of their wells will take place.
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location.
- The updated Site-wide Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP; Revision 5), and associated response to EPA comments on Revision 4 of the QAPP, were submitted on May 20.
- Submitted responses to EPA and Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) comments on May 22 for the Conceptual Site Model (CSM; Revision 3 dated January 30, 2009).
- Continued the preparation of responses to EPA and YPT comments on the Draft Process Areas (OU-3) RI Work Plan dated August 30, 2007.
- Field activities associated with the Shallow Zone groundwater characterization activities were completed May 2. Compiled and analyzed pressure transducer and slug test data.
- Continued updates to the project database, incorporating results from the groundwater characterization activities and associated quality control information.
- Continued the compilation and interpretation of field information and laboratory analytical data for the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Characterization Data Summary Report.
- Continued Site wildlife surveys.

### AOC Removal Actions

- Continued preliminary engineering activities associated with the removal action for the inactive Anaconda Evaporation Ponds.
- Continued development of the following SOW deliverables: Site O&M Plan; Electrical Threats Work Plan; Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Design Work Plan (attached to the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Data Summary Report); and the Process Areas MARSSIM Characterization Work Plan.
- Submitted the draft Transite Pipe Work Plan on May 26.

#### Site Issues

- Non-Routine pumping continues out of the Slot Pond Leak detection sump at a rate of approximately 1.2 gallons per minute.
- Identified outstanding O&M issues associated with the Arimetco FMS for submittal to EPA.
- The SSP pump has exhibited reduced pumping capacity, and is currently under evaluation.
- The Slot 2 Pond transfer pump ceased operating, and Fawcett Electric initiated repairs.
- A power pole for the VLT service line was observed to be broken, and is currently under evaluation.

#### Planned June/July 2009 Activities

- Continue routine O&M, site security and modified bird deterrent activities.
- Complete the Slot 2 Pond transfer pump repair, and the repair of the VLT power pole.
- Initiate the assessment of PWS components (e.g., pull well pumps, perform well video survey, flush out pipelines, assess pump condition, and catalog/store pump components).
- Continue meteorological monitoring at AM-6. Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level monitoring.
- Conduct 2Q 2009 quarterly monitoring of Site-wide groundwater monitor wells and associated annual domestic well sampling. Implement quarterly monitoring of domestic wells along Luzier Lane and Locust Lane as part of the PWS evaluation. Submit the 1Q 2009 Groundwater Monitoring Report.
- Submit a well construction (letter) report for the nine new monitor wells associated with the PWS Evaluation. Continue monitoring and data compilation and initiate the data summary report for the shallow zone characterization.
- Respond to EPA comments on the Draft Process Areas (OU-3) Remedial Investigation Work Plan.
- Continue engineering activities associated with the removal action for the inactive Anaconda Evaporation Ponds, including Sub-Area A. Continue engineering activities associated with the on-Site landfill for the management of transite pipe and other Site C&D materials.
- Continue preparation of the following AOC/SOW deliverables: Site O&M Plan; Electrical Threats Work Plan; Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Design Work Plan (attached to the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Data Summary Report); and the Process Areas MARSSIM Characterization Work Plan. Submit these deliverables to EPA in accordance with the SOW deliverable schedule, and respond to EPA comments when received.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (661) 287-3855 or via e-mail at [Roy.Thun@bp.com](mailto:Roy.Thun@bp.com).

Sincerely,



Roy Thun  
Environmental Business Manager

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail  
Mike Montgomery, EPA – via electronic mail  
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail  
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail  
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail  
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
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Justin Whitesides, YPT – via electronic mail  
Chairman Emm, YPT – via electronic mail  
Chris Winsor, Atlantic Richfield Company - via electronic mail  
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